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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
ACDA-10 EB-07 NRC-07 OES-07 FEAE-00 ERDA-07
TRSE-00 COME-00 ERDE-00 OMB-01 /115 W
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O 051328Z MAY 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3512
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM TECH ENRG UK CA FR JA GW US
SUBJECT: FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTS RELAXING OF U.S.
NUCLEAR POLICY EXPECTED BY HMG

REF: LONDON 7206

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY DAVID FISHLOCK REPORTING FROM SALZBURG APPEARED IN THE MAY 5 FINANCIAL TIMES:

BEGIN TEXT:

RELAXING OF U.S. NUCLEAR POLICY EXPECTED

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS CONFIDENT THAT THE U.S. WILL EVENTUALLY RELAX THE NUCLEAR ANTI-PROLIFERATION POLICY,
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STATED BY PRESIDENT CARTER LAST MONTH, BUT EXPECTS SOME TOUGH BARGAINING AMONG THE NUCLEAR NATIONS BEFORE ANY REVISION IS ACCEPTED.

THIS EMERGED FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY'S NUCLEAR POWER CONFERENCE HERE TODAY, WHEN ANTI-PROLIFERATION MEASURES CONTINUED TO BE THE DOMINANT

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TOPIC OF GENERAL CONCERN.

INTERNATIONAL MOVES TO TIGHTEN CONTROLS ON THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES ARE EXPECTED TO BE ONE OF THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AT THE LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT TALKS THIS WEEK-END.

UNDERSCORING THE U.K. POSITION IS THE ARGUMENT THAT THE PLUTONIUM BYPRODUCT OF NUCLEAR REACTOR OPERATIONS IS NOT INTRINSICALLY SAFER IF FUEL IS LEFT UNREPROCESSED IN SPENT FUEL STORES--AS THE U.S. IS PROPOSING--THAN IF IT IS REPROCESSED AND STORED AS REFINED PLUTONIUM.

THE U.S. DECLARATION OF A MORATORIUM ONLY ON REPROCESSING IS SEEN AS AN OVER-SIMPLIFICATION OF THE COMPLEX PROBLEM OF PROLIFERATION.

BRITAIN--WHICH ALREADY STORES PLUTONIUM FOR SEVERAL OTHER NATIONS--FAVOURS THE PLACING OF PLUTONIUM STORAGE UNDER INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT. IT IS WILLING TO SUPPORT THE IDEA OF PLACING BRITAIN'S NON-MILITARY STOCKPILE OF SEVERAL TONS OF PLUTONIUM AT WINDSCALE UNDER INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND SAFEGUARDS SUPERVISION, IF INTERNATIONAL PLUTONIUM STORAGE WERE ORGANIZED.

THE CONCEPT OF PLUTONIUM STORAGE UNDER INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND SAFEGUARDS, WHICH HAS BEEN UNDER STUDY BY THE IAEA FOR THE PAST YEAR, IS HIGHLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE AGENCY ITSELF.
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BUT THE IAEA IS ACUTELY SENSITIVE TO THE FACT THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AS ITS MAIN SPONSOR--RESPONSIBLE FOR ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF ITS FINANCIAL SUPPORT--HAS DECLARED A POLICY FORBIDDING THE REFINING OF PLUTONIUM.

DR. SIGVARD EKLUND, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE IAEA, BELIEVES THE CONCEPT OF MULTI-NATIONAL FUEL CYCLE CENTRES INCLUDING REPROCESSING OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL "WOULD CONSTITUTE A GUARANTEE AGAINST PROLIFERATION."

(RICHARD EVANS WRITES: MR. CALLAGHAN CALLED SENIOR MINISTERS TO 20 DOWNING STREET YESTERDAY FOR A WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION ON NCULEAR ENERGY BEFORE THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT THIS WEEK-END AND KEY CABINET DECISIONS ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES AFFECTING NUCLEAR POLICY.
THE PROPOSALS ARE TO BE OUTLINED BY THE PRIME MINISTER DURING THE TWO-DAY ECONOMIC SUMMIT AT DOWNING STREET.
PRESIDENT CARTER IS EXPECTED TO PRESS FOR SUPPORT FOR

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HIS PLAN FOR RIGID CONTROL OVER THE RE-EXPORT OF
ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL.) END TEXT

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2. MAY 5 FINANCIAL TIMES EDITORIAL, "SEEKING A NUCLEAR COMPROMISE," STATES U.S. PROPOSALS AS THEY STAND ARE CLEARLY UNACCEPTABLE TO THE UK AND TO OTHER INDUSTRIAL NATIONS, SINCE THEY SEEM TO IMPLY THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NUCLEAR POWER INDUSTRY OUTSIDE THE U.S. WILL BE EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. THE PROBLEM IS THAT OTHER INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES ARE NOT PREPARED TO MAKE THEMSELVES DEPENDENT ON A SINGLE MONOPOLY SUPPLIER, ANY MORE THAN THEY ARE IN THE CASE OF OIL.... (IT) IS NOT REALISTIC TO HARK BACK TO THE DAYS WHEN ONLY THE AMERICANS (AND PERHAPS THE RUSSIANS) HAD THE NECESSARY TECHNOLOGY TO EXPLOIT NUCLEAR POWER, NOR IS IT REASONABLE TO IMPOSE AN AMERICAN SOLUTION ON THE REST
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OF THE WORLD. THE KEY ISSUE IS HOW THE ENTIRELY LEGITIMATE AMERICAN DESIRE FOR SAFEGUARDS CAN BE RECONCILED WITH THE EQUALLY LEGITIMATE DESIRE OF OTHER COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR POWER IN A WAY WHICH SUITS THEIR ENERGY NEEDS. THE ANSWER PRESUMABLY LIES IN SOME STRENGTHENED FORM OF INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS AND INSPECTION....IF, AS SEEMS LIKELY, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S STATEMENT ON REPROCESSING REPRESENTS TO SOME EXTENT A BARGAINING POSITION, THE UK CAN PLAY A MAJOR PART IN DEVELOPING COUNTERPROPOSALS; ONE POSSIBILITY UNDER CONSIDERATION IS THAT THE UK'S PLUTONIUM STOCKPILE AT WINDSCALE SHOULD BE PLACED UNDER INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL. MR. CALLAGHAN SAID THIS WEEK THAT THE WORLD MUST MOVE INTO THE NUCLEAR AGE "IF THERE IS TO BE A CONTINUATION OF THE KIND OF INDUSTRIAL SOCIETIES WE HAVE TODAY." THIS REQUIRES AGREEMENT BETWEEN COUNTRIES, NOT DICTATION BY ONE COUNTRY, HOWEVER POWERFUL.

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PARM, TECH, ENRG, UK, CA, FR, JA, GE, US
To: STATE
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